

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 SSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 GAC-01 SAJ-01 PM-09 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

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P R 141032 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1289

INFO USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: MINISTERS OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE: HAGUE 2176

1. ECONOMIC MINISTER DRS. RUDOLPH FRANCISCUS MARIS " RUUD"
LUBBERS, WHO TURNED 34 EARLIER THIS MONTH, WAS " BRILLIANT"
ECONOMIST AS STUDENT AND HAS BEEN MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL DAILY ENTERPRISE MANUFACTURING STEEL CONSTRUC-
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TION COMPONENTS FOR PAST 10 YEARS. AS CHAIRMAN OF CATHOLIC METAL EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATION HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BEATING DOWN STEEL WORKER WAGE DEMANDS IN RECENT NEGOTIATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS CONSIDERED LEFT WINGER IN KVP, SYMPATHECTIC TO WORKING CLASS ASPIRATIONS, AND STRONG PRO-PONENT OF CENTRALLY- MANAGED INCOMES POLICY BOTH TO CONTROL INFLATION AND TO ACHIEVE MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND WEALTH. A DUTCH BUSINESS CONTACT OF THE EMBASSY'S, WHO IS LUBBERS' NEIGHBOR AND HAS BEEN A FRIEND SINCE CHILDHOOD, IS HIGH ON LUBBERS' ABILITIES AND CHARACTERIZES HIM AS " PROGRESSIVE" BUT DEFINITELY NOT RADICAL. SOURCE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE DUTCH BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS ANYTHING TO FEAR FROM THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT WITH LUBBERS PLAYING A LEADING ROLE, PROVIDED LABOR PARTY MINISTERS CAN RESIST PRESSURES FROM THEIR OWN EXTREMISTS. ALTHOUGH YOUTHFUL AND NEW TO GOVERNMENT, LUBBERS MAY HAVE RIGHT KIND OF BACKGROUND AND CHARISMA TO BRING ABOUT BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT AND THAT MAY BE ONE OF HIS MAIN TASKS IN NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. FINANCE MINISTER PROF. DR. W. J. DUIJSENBERG, 37, HAS STRONG BACKGROUND IN BOTH ACADEMIC AND APPLIED ECONOMICS AND IS COMMITTED SOCIALIST THEORETICIAN. HE KNOWS AMERICA WELL FROM HIS THREE YEARS ON IMF STAFF AS EXPERT ON STERLING PROBLEM. HIS SUPERIORS AT NETHERLANDS CENTRAL BANK, WHERE HE SPENT ONE YEAR IN 1970, DESCRIBE HIM AS HIGHLY COMPETENT TECHNICALLY AND SENSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE THINKER. ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY MATTERS HE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS IN FAVOR OF FIXED EXCHANGE RATES BUT RELUCTANT TO RELINQUISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER DUTCH RESERVES TO EUROPEAN MONETARY FUND. (IN THIS HE PARALLELS VIEWS OF CENTRAL BANK AND MINFIN POLICY MAKERS.) HE IS PRO-PONENT OF WAGE AND PRICE RESTRAINTS, STARTING WITH LATTER, AS BEST MEANS OF TAMPING DOWN INFLATION, AND PROFESSES TO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER TAX INCREASES MAY BE DESIRABLE. ON BALANCE WE EXPECT HIM TO SUPPORT SOMEWHAT MORE ACTIVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN ECONOMY THROUGH USE OF FISCAL AND MONETARY TECHNIQUES THAN EXERCISED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT BUT NO SHARP CHANGES IN DIRECTION.

3. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TIEMEN BROUWER, KVP, 56,
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STUDIED LAW AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF NIJMEGEN. BEGAN WORK WITH CATHOLIC NETHERLANDS FARMERS AND GARDNERS ORGANIZATION (KNTBL IN 1951. APPOINTED CHARMAN OF CATHOLIC AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ORGANIZATON, REGIONAL ORGANIZATON OF KNTB, IN 1966. ENTERED SECOND CHAMBER FOR KVP IN 1953. MEMBER KVP PARTY BOARD. ACTING CHAIRMAN SECOND CHAMBER AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE. MEMBER OF

EUROPAN PARLIAMENT. CHAIRMAN OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
LEGAL COMMITTEE. SERIOUS OPERATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO
WHICH HAS CAUSED SOME TO WONDER WHETHER HE UP TO TRAVEL
AND MARATHON NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WHICH IS LOT OF EC
AGRICULTURE MINISTERS. KIND, COURTEOUS, AND APPROACH-
ABLE, BUT HEWS CLOSELY TO EC AGRICULTURAL PARTY LINE.
MARRIED WITH 4 GROWN CHILDREN.
MIDDENDORF

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